

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115016
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL:GMH
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
S/MS:MJOYCE (IN SUBSTANCE)
H:TWESTON (SUBS)
-----028653 051859Z /47
O 051820Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UR, PEPR (BRECKENRIDGE)

SUBJECT: ALLEGED OGARKOV REMARK

REF: MOSCOW 06152

1. PAUL NITZE IS CITING A PRESS RELEASE OF CONGRESSMAN
BRECKENRIDGE TO THE EFFECT THAT OGARKOV TOLD CODEL PRICE
MARCH 29: QUOTE THE US HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN A POSITION WHERE
IT COULD NOT BE THREATENED BY FOREIGN POWERS. THAT IS NO
LONGER TRUE. TODAY THE SOVIET UNION HAS MILITARY SUPERIORITY
OVER THE US AND HENCEFORTH THE US WILL BE THREATENED AND YOU
HAD BETTER GET USED TO IT; UNQUOTE

2. REFTTEL AND ACCOUNT OF MEETING FROM STATE ESCORT OFFICER
MIKE JOYCE DO NOT REFLECT OGARKOV SAYING THIS.

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3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANYTHING OGARKOV
SAID ALONG SUCH LINES, AND WHO FROM EMBASSY WAS PRESENT AND
CAN ATTEST TO WHAT WAS SAID AND NOT SAID. DOES A FULL
TRANSCRIPT EXIST OR CAN ONE BE OBTAINED? WHO INTERPRETED
OGARKOV'S REMARKS, AND WHO AMONG EMBASSY AMERICANS PRESENT
UNDERSTOOD HIS REMARKS IN RUSSIAN?

4. FYI: WE SUSPECT THAT ALLEGED REMARK IS ACTUALLY A DISTORTED VERSION OF FOLLOWING PASSAGE FROM ARBATOV'S PRAVDA ARTICLE OF THE SAME DAY. QUOTE NATURALLY IT IS NOT EASY TO RECONCILE ONESELF TO THE IDEA THAT ONESELF, ONE'S FAMILY, ONE'S COUNTRY WOULD BE VULNERABLE -- IN THE EVENT OF WAR -- TO A NUCLEAR STRIKE, BRINGING WITH IT DEATH AND MONSTROUS DESTRUCTION. PERHAPS IT IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THIS FOR THE AMERICANS, WHO FOR CENTURIES HAD BEEN LIVING BEYOND TWO OCEANS IN A FEELING OF COMPLETE SECURITY AND, IF ONE THINKS OF THE POSTWAR YEARS, IN THE CONVICTION OF THEIR OWN STRATEGIC SUPREMACY (AND THEY LIVED, TO TELL THE TRUTH WITHOUT BEING IN ANY WAY EMBARRASSED BY THE FACT THAT SUCH A "SECURITY," SUCH A SUPREMACY, WAS TURNING INTO AN ENORMOUS DANGER FROM OTHER PEOPLES). THESE TIMES ARE PAST; THEY ARE IRRETRIEVABLY GONE -- IF A WAR BREAKS OUT, AMERICA WOULD BE AS VULNERABLE AS OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF HOW GRIEVED SOME AMERICANS ARE BY THIS, THEY SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE TRUE CAUSES OF THE EXISTING DANGERS. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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